

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8994
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UNCLAS JERUSALEM 0732

1. SUMMARY: EAST JERUSALEM ARAB LANGUAGE PRESS MAY 19 HAD FIRST REACTIONS TO ISRAELI ELECTIONS. ALL PAPERS APPEAR DETERMINED TO SHOW NO GREAT SURPRISE AT BEGIN TRIUMPH AND TO HIDE ANY SIGN OF FEAR - "NO NEED TO BE ALARMED" AS AL QUDS PUTS IT. MOST FOLLOW THEME THAT THERE IS LITTLE DIFFERENCE TO ANY ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AND THAT BEGIN MAKES EXPLICIT WHAT THE ALIGNMENT REALLY BELIEVED AND SHOWS "THE REAL FACE OF THE FOE" ACCORDING TO AL FAJR. WEST BANK MAYORS INTERVIEWED LOOK TO OUTSIDE WORLD TO RESPOND TO LIKUD POLICY STATEMENTS AND DEFEND PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. END SUMMARY.

2. AL QUDS EDITORIALIZES THAT THOSE WHO STUDIED ISRAELI INTENTIONS HAVE KNOWN THAT THERE WAS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIKUD AND THE ALIGNMENT. IT GOES ON TO CONTRAST BEGIN'S STATEMENTS ON JERUSALEM WITH PERES AND BEGIN'S STAND ON THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WITH THAT OF DAYAN AND FINDS NO DIFFERENCE. PAPER CONCLUDES THAT TRIUMPH OF BEGIN SHOULD RE-AWAKEN ARAB WILL AND THAT WEST BANKERS WILL AWAIT FIRM AND PROMPT REACTION FROM ARAB WORLD.

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3. AL FAJR SEES ONLY A CHANGE IN TACTICS AND EXPLICITNESS AS BETWEEN THE ALIGNMENT AND LIKUD ON HANDLING OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. IT NOTES CERTAIN ADVANTAGES TO THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE BY HAVING A HARD-LINE LIKUD GOVERNMENT "THE JEWISH PEOPLE WHO HAVE WON THE FAVOR OF THE WORLD...WOULD LOSE THIS... ONCE THE EXTREMIST LIKUD"" TAKES CHARGE.

4. QUOTES FROM WEST BANK MAYORS APPEAR IN SEVERAL PAPERS --
KHALAF OF RAMALLAH REMINDED THAT ALL ISRAELI LEADERS HAVE
IGNORED PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, WARNS BEGIN THAT PALESTINAINS
ARE RIGHTFUL OWNERS OF WEST BANK AND THAT CONTIUED
DISREGARD FOR PALESTINAIN RIGHTS COULD LEAD TO ANOTHER WAR.

5. QAWASMI OF HEBRON ALTHOUGH REGRETTING BEGIN VICTORY EXPRESSES
HOPE THAT ACCESSION TO POWER WILL FORCE CHANGES IN HIS POLICIES
AS HE MUST DEAL WITH ARAB, U.S. AND INTERNAL PRESSUES. HE
WARNED HOWEVER THAT HE EXPECTED A "HOT SUMMER" IN HEBRON.

6. SHAK'A OF NABLUS APPEARED MORE PESSIMISTIC STATING THAT
"IT IS NOT FAR-FETCHED TO SAY THAT LIKUD'S SUCCESS
MIGHT LEAD TO A WAR IN THE REGION."

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